

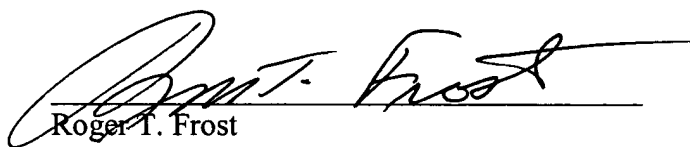
REMARKS

The above amendments remove all multiple dependencies from the claims, including some dependencies that may have been indefinite according to U.S. practice. These amendments thus place all the claims in condition for examination on the merits, and also avoid paying the surcharge for submitting a multiple-dependent claim.

The Applicant awaits action in due course.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: December 22, 2003



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